

Craft-Turney Water Supply Corporation  
Jacksonville, TX  
October 7, 2018

## Background

On Oct. 3, the Craft-Turney Water Supply Corp. notified the TCEQ of a backflow incident impacting a small portion of the system: 11 service connections. The TCEQ suspects a fungicide entered the water supply. The water utility has indicated that this portion of the system has been isolated from the distribution system. The **do not use order** was initially issued to customers of this portion of the distribution system, but was expanded to customers in the general vicinity of these connections as a precaution. Customers in the expanded area, (located in the same hydraulic pressure plane) can use water to flush their toilets but cannot use the water for any other purposes, such as bathing, washing clothes, preparing food, drinking, gardening, or for pets.

Since issuing the order, the TCEQ has been in continuous contact with the water utility's representatives to ensure public awareness of this situation and has initiated multiple measures, including sampling to determine the extent of potential impact in the water system. The TCEQ is coordinating with the water supply corporation, as well as other state partners and EPA Region 6. The water utility has been continuously flushing the system to remove any potential contaminants. TCEQ investigators and engineers are on the ground and working with the water supply corporation to address this issue. The TCEQ has an open investigation into this incident to determine the cause and source.

The **do not use order** will remain in place until the water system has been adequately flushed and samples indicate that the water is safe to use. It is not known at this time how long this may take, but the health and safety of the water supply corporation's customers is TCEQ's priority.

## Update

In close coordination with the TCEQ, the WSC continues to develop and implement a flushing plan. Flushing has begun at the original 11 homes and plans are being developed for the remainder of the pressure plane in the affected do not use order area. Chlorine levels in the pressure plane are also being increased substantially.

Sample results from the October 4th sampling event have been received, and the TCEQ is evaluating the results. Preliminary analyses indicate the presence of the fungicide in some samples, which was anticipated since some of the samples were taken near the original 11 homes. The TCEQ will continue to analyze the results through the weekend.

Once the EPA Lab in Houston receives a sample of the Methylene bis-thiocyanate from the manufacturer in Memphis, which is expected to occur on Monday, October 8, an estimate for the duration of the event can be determined. At that time, the TCEQ will proceed with its next sampling

event to confirm that the flushing and chlorine have been effective and that there is no longer a presence of fungicide in the system.

On October 6, 2018, TCEQ investigators and engineers worked with the residents of the original 11 homes on flushing their homes and offering assistance where needed. A plumber and water system operator also met with residents to assist in flushing water heaters and other appliances.

Additionally, TCEQ investigators have been staged at the water system office to respond to complaints. Three calls were received today asking when the **do not use order** will be lifted. The DSHS informed the TCEQ today that people have experienced severe health effects consistent with exposure to this product. One person was diagnosed with eye damage. The TCEQ will be sharing its sampling data with the DSHS on Monday, once we've matched the sample results with the sample collection sites.

The TCEQ requested, and the WSC agreed, that a backflow prevention device be installed on each service line at the lumbermill, before water service to the lumbermill can be restored.

The TCEQ (and its contractor) continue to monitor available bottled water onsite. An additional 20 pallets of water were delivered on October 6. A 16-unit temporary shower has been set up and is open from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

The TCEQ has also coordinated with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and their staff are available to take calls regarding health concerns.

#### **Press**

TCEQ issued a News Release on the evening of October 5, 2018.